THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present the number of individual income tax assesses are 2.59 crores, which is 2.5 percent of the population. About 85 percent of the tax-payers have gross income below Rs. 1.5 lakhs for whom the tax rebate has remained unchanged.

(c) Not applicable.

ADB aid for fiscal reforms in Kerala

2465. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) suggested any curtailment/changes in the present benefit of the Government employees of Kerala on the ADB's technical assistance project for "supporting fiscal reforms in Kerala";

(b) if so, details thereof including curtailment/changes made during the last six months alongwith the curtailment/changes proposed to be implemented;

(c) whether an *aide de memoirs* has been exchanged between Asian Development Bank and the Government of Kerala during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the total aid and conditions for the loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Programme Loan for the Fiscal Reforms is in the pipeline for calendar year 2002. The details of the loan including its scope,

loan amount would be discussed with the pre-appraisal and appraisal mission of the bank and the State Government during the course of the year. The details of loan would be known after negotiations are held and the loan is approved by the ADB Board.

Slump in economic growth

2466. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the economic growth has slumped during 2000-2001 despite robust growth in manufacturing sector; and

(b) if so, what is the comparison of this growth with that of the previous three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the data released by the Central Statistical Organisation the growth in overall GDP and manufacturing sector, at constant 1993-94 prices, for 2000-2001 and previous three years was as follows:

Year	Overall GDP Growth	Manufacturing Sector growth
1997-1998	4.8	1.5
1998-1999	6.5	2.7
1999-2000	6.1	4.2
2000-2001 (Quick Estimates)	4.0	6.7